

REMARKS

Applicants are filing a supplemental amendment in response to the non-final Office Action of February 26, 2007. Applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks. Claims 1-41 are now pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 12, 17, 27, and 39 being independent.

New Claims

New claims 27-41, including new independent claims 27 and 39, have been added by this amendment. Applicants submit that new claims 27-41 are allowable over the prior art of record, namely U.S. Patent Application Publication Number 2003/0212804 (Hashemi) at least because Hashemi fails to describe or suggest all of the subject matter of new independent claims 27 and 39.

Hashemi describes a user interface that includes, among other features, a media clip browse window that indicates various media clips that have been made available to the user by other members of the user's peer group. See, e.g., Hashemi at paragraphs [0021]-[0027] and [0038]-[0049]. In response to the user selecting a particular one of the media clips listed in the media clip browse window, the selected media clip is streamed to the user. See, e.g., Hashemi at paragraphs [0021]-[0027] and [0038]-[0049]. As described by Hashemi, the user interface also may include a chat window that enables the user to chat with other members of the peer group while a media clip is being streamed to the user, thereby enabling the user to discuss various different aspects of the media clip with other members of the peer group as the media clip is streamed to the user. See, e.g., Hashemi at paragraphs [0021]-[0027] and [0038]-[0049].

However, as discussed previously in applicants' Reply to Action of February 26, 2007, filed on May 29, 2007, Hashemi does not describe or suggest enabling a user to select or invoke different communications modes for chatting with other members using the chat window. As such, Hashemi fails to describe or suggest providing an instant message sender with different communications modes for communicating with an instant message recipient within an instant messaging communications session, the different communications modes offering varying levels

of self-disclosure and including a textual message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send textual messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, an audio message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, and an audio-video message communications mode that enables the instant message sender to send audio-video messages to the instant message recipient within the instant messaging communications session, as recited in independent claim 27.

Likewise, because Hashemi fails to describe or suggest enabling a user to select or invoke different communications modes for chatting with other members using the chat window, Hashemi similarly fails to describe or suggest establishing an audio-video instant messaging communications session between a first instant message participant that is capable of engaging in user-recorded audio-video messaging and a second instant message participant that is capable of engaging in user-recorded audio-video messaging, receiving a request from the first instant message participant to limit self-disclosure within the audio-video instant messaging communications session by invoking a communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session, and in response to receiving the request to invoke the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session, invoking the communications mode that includes only non-user-recorded-video modes of communication from the first instant message participant within the audio-video instant messaging communications session, as recited in new independent claim 39.

Accordingly, applicants submit that new independent claims 27 and 39 and their respective dependent claims, claims 28-38 and claims 40 and 41, are allowable over Hashemi.

Conclusion

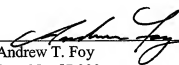
Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue, or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue, or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

The fee in the amount of \$1050 in payment of the excess claim fees is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 21, 2007



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